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Fellow Texans:

If you were not from Texas, you might think our history began at the Alamo in March 1836.

In some ways you might be right.

In that battle, over 180 Texians stood their ground in defense of something larger than themselves.

You might say the Alamo gave birth to the Texas spirit. The men

at the Alamo proved that some things are worth dying for—like family, freedom and land.

The history of Texas is the history of land.

From old Spanish land grants and Stephen F. Austin's settlements, to the land deal that built the Capitol, the story of Texas land is colorful and stirring.

And it's a story that can best be told in one place: the Texas General Land Office Archives.

Home to the history of Texas land, the Archives contains over 35 million documents, some dating back to 1720. Here, you'll find the story of how this land evolved from a Spanish province to a proud Republic and modern American state. The characters in this story range from rogues to patriots, from despots to visionaries. Spanish land grants show the promise of a new world. Letters from Alamo defenders speak of courage in the face of death. Confederate letters echo themes of duty and longing for home.

Thanks to the dedicated stewardship of the Texas General Land Office Archives staff, past and present, this story can continue to be told.

Visit our website or better yet, come visit your Archives in person. We're ready to tell you a story.

Sincerely,

JERRY PATTERSON

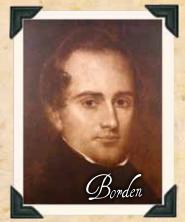
Commissioner, Texas General Land Office







# ARCHIVES HISTORY



ne of the earliest tasks faced by Sam Houston as first president of the Republic of Texas was gathering land records to define the newly formed nation. By act of the first Texas Congress, President Houston created the General Land Office and ordered its first commissioner, John Borden, to travel the countryside collecting every record related to Texas land. These documents would be used to develop a system for distributing public land. From original Spanish land grants, to Stephen F. Austin's field notes, Borden's acquisitions grew to become the Archives of the Texas General Land Office.

The Archives continues to serve as a home for the history of Texas land, housing over 35 million hand-

drafted maps, surveys, land grants, sketches and other documents—some dating back to Spanish rule. Not only do these records support the land records for early settlers, they document the passage of Texas public land to private ownership and form the legal foundation to virtually every private land title in Texas.

Letters from the battlefront, German immigration contracts, and documents issued to assist indigent Confederate veterans and their widows can be found in the special collections, along with important railroad documents, historic survey records of W.D. Twichell, and much more.

Due to the exceptional historical value of these records, Land Office documents are securely housed in our Austin headquarters in state-of-the-art vaults with controlled lighting, temperature and humidity and fire suppression systems.



Our archival holdings belong to the people of Texas and are accessed daily by genealogists, historians, archeologists, surveyors and anyone interested in Texas history. Each year, thousands of schoolchildren and citizens tour the Archives to see them up close.



The Texas General Land Office Archives is home to this register of settlers in Stephen F. Austin's first colony in Texas. The priceless manuscript contains field notes and sketches by Austin's secretary Samuel May Williams along with Austin's own signature as Empresario.

# LAND GRANTS

#### THE SPANISH COLLECTION

Original Spanish and Mexican land titles, along with other period materials, comprise the Spanish Collection—a vast repository encompassing documents from 1720–1836.

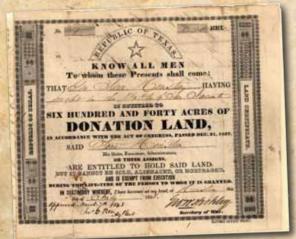
The Spanish Collection is the primary source of documentation for land distribution in Texas prior to 1836. It serves as a rich source of information for studying the settlement of Texas and the activities in the empresario colonies prior to independence.

# REPUBLIC AND STATE LAND GRANTS

After annexation by the United States in 1845, Texas retained control of its public domain, unlike other western states, and continued to distribute its land. Prior to 1900, Texas was cash poor and used



land to secure and pay off debt, reward veterans, encourage economic development, finance public education, build the State Capitol and much more.



Some of the most popular documents in the Archives relate to the land grant certificates issued to Texians who served in battle during the Texas Revolution, including William B. Travis, David Crockett, Juan Seguin and Sam Houston.

The extensive records documenting this generous land program represents a wealth of information for historical research. These records include files on individual tracts of land,

records of land certificates, claims files, maps and

many other useful sources of information about people and places in Texas. The Texas General Land Office Land Grant Database allows researchers to search by abstract number, name, class, title date, section number, patent number and more.



# MAP COLLECTION

The story of Texas land is told through the vast Map Collection of the Texas General Land Office Archives. Consisting of more than 80,000 maps and sketches, the collection includes manuscript and printed maps showing the evolution of Texas from Spanish settlement to a modern state, and features historic maps of every county, many major cities, smaller towns and neighborhoods. Maps specializing in railroad routes, colonies, forts, large ranches and waterways can also be found. Used every day by researchers, these historic maps are functional and beautiful hand-drawn works of art.

Many maps can be accessed online in high resolution through the searchable online catalog. Zoomify technology provides a fast interactive viewing experience at http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/ArcMaps/ArcMapsLookup.cfm.



BROWSE THE ARCHIVES MAP COLLECTION TO VIEW OR PURCHASE http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/ArcMaps/ArcMapsLookup.cfm

# **OUR SERVICES**

### GENEALOGICAL NAME SEARCHES

#### \$20 PER NAME

Name searches are provided as a service to researchers unable to visit the Land Office in person. Archives staff members search all indexes covering the official records of the Land Office. Upon completion, abstracted information will be provided to the researcher.

#### SKETCH SEARCHES

A comprehensive search to discover applicable working sketches, rolled sketches or sketch files associated with a particular survey or location is available to all customers.



#### **COPY SERVICES**

Copy services are available for documents in the Archives that have not been scanned. Please note that some documents may be too fragile to copy.

COLOR COPY (LEGAL OR LETTER): \$2 PER PAGE
COLOR (LEDGER SIZE): \$3 PER PAGE
BLACK AND WHITE (LEGAL OR LETTER): \$1 PER PAGE
BLACK AND WHITE (LEDGER SIZE): \$2 PER PAGE

#### MAP REPRODUCTIONS

#### \$20 TO \$40 EACH

Most maps in the Archives historic map collection can be reproduced on high-quality paper with UV inks and are suitable for framing. Order via phone, in person or online.

OFFICIAL COUNTY MAPS: \$15 PER COUNTY
SKETCHES, TRACINGS AND BLUEPRINTS: \$2 PER LINEAR FOOT

#### SPANISH TRANSLATION

Thorough, accurate and timely Spanish translation of documents in the Archives.

New, untranslated document: \$0.15 per word Copies of existing translations: \$2 per page

#### CERTIFICATION

Individual map: \$2 Complete file: \$25

SPANISH TRANSLATION: \$25 PER PAGE

#### OTHER RESEARCH

#### \$50 PER HOUR/UP TO 4 HOURS

Research requests that require staff members to perform extensive research of the official records of the Archives may incur an additional cost.

### CONTRACT SCANNING SERVICES

Large and small format scanning services are available for public institutions through the highly trained and skilled staff members in our scan lab.

# **PUBLICATIONS**

The Texas General Land Office offers several publications for researchers, genealogists or anyone interested in exploring the Archives.



# CATALOGUE OF THE SPANISH COLLECTION

\$15 EACH



**PART I:** Contains detailed introduction covering the evolution of the Spanish Collection. Important information is abstracted from the records and indices of titles and unfinished titles, character certificates, registers and more.

(First published June 2003. 344 pp.; softbound)

PART II: Contains detailed information on Spanish and Mexican efforts to manage land colonization and distribution systems in Texas, as well as a topical arrangement of records with a description of each document. Also included is a calendar with

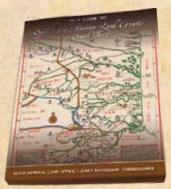
summary descriptions and a comprehensive name and subject index, indices of correspondence, empresario contracts, governmental decrees, appointments, reports, notices and proceedings.

(First published June 2003. 276 pp.; softbound)



# NEW GUIDE TO SPANISH AND MEXICAN LAND GRANTS IN SOUTH TEXAS

\$15 EACH



The New Guide features information regarding Spanish and Mexican land grants between the Nueces river and Rio Grande, including a description of the Spanish and Mexican land grant and title process and a name index of places, persons and ranches.

(First published April 2009. 343 pp., figures, illustrations; softbound)

★ 2009 Presidio La Bahia Award Winner!

ORDER BY PHONE:

512.463.5277 OR 800.998.4GL0

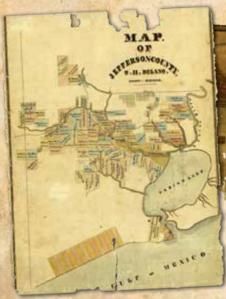
ORDER VIA EMAIL:
ARCHIVES@GLO.TEXAS.GOV

# **PRESERVATION**

### WHAT IS SAVE TEXAS HISTORY?

The Texas General Land Office Save Texas History<sup>TM</sup> program was created by Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson in 2004, to conserve the historic maps and documents in the Archives while promoting the study of Texas history.

Many of the documents housed in the Archives are crumbling due to early storage conditions, continuous use and age. With no state appropriation for the conservation of these documents, Save Texas History is working to raise private funds for their protection. Through the sale of map reproductions and innovative and informational fundraisers, Save Texas History has been able to conserve and digitally preserve over 70,000 documents—but many more remain at risk.





THE FUTURE OF THESE DOCUMENTS DEPENDS ON YOUR SUPPORT.



savetexashistory.org

#### **OUR MISSION**

- ★ Preserve and promote the historic maps and documents of the Archives.
- ★ Educate all Texans about our colorful past.
- ★ Serve as a teaching resource and provide tools for the study of Texas history.
- ★ Develop corporate and private partnerships.

TO DONATE TO A SPECIFIC MAP, CONTACT
SUSAN SMITH DORSEY AT 512-463-5274 OR SUSAN.DORSEY@GLO.TEXAS.GOV

# **EDUCATION**

Home to the history of Texas land, the Texas General Land Office Archives has a unique responsibility to educate and inform Texans of all ages about their rich heritage. The Save Texas History<sup>TM</sup> program promotes Texas history education so that future generations will continue to take pride in our great state.



#### ANNUAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

The Save Texas History Symposium is an annual event that highlights a unique chapter in the story of Texas, as illustrated by the Texas General Land Office Archives. Appealing to amateur historians, genealogists and history buffs, the Symposium features presentations by historians, hands-on exhibits, workshops and VIP tours of the historic Archives.

#### HISTORY IN THE CLASSROOM

Save Texas History offers high-quality TEKS-correlated resources and lesson plans for teachers using primary source documents and maps.

Guided Archives tours and educational speakers are available with advance notice.





The Texas Travels Essay Contest is an annual competition for fourth- and seventh-grade Texas history students that encourages creativity, research and writing skills, all for great prizes!

## HISTORY ON THE AIR

This Week in Texas History<sup>TM</sup> is a 60-second, weekly radio feature produced by the Save Texas History program that brings to life little-known episodes in the story of Texas. From hurricanes to shootouts, to barons and boom towns—these are The Stories that Made Texas Great!<sup>TM</sup> Airing on radio affiliates across Texas, date and time may vary; please check local listings. Free for educational use and available for broadcast sponsorship.

Listen online at thisweekintexashistory.org



FOR EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT
D'ANNE STITES AT 512.463.6740 OR DANNE.STITES@GLO.TEXAS.GOV

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Collectible maps, CDs, calendars and notecards make perfect gifts for the history enthusiasts in your life! Proceeds benefit Save Texas History. TM

# COLLECTIBLE MAPS

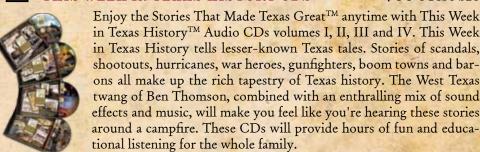
\$20 TO \$40 EACH



The Archives is home to thousands of colorful, historic maps that are more than just functional—they're works of art. Men like O. Henry, Charles Pressler and Conrad Stremme toiled over hand-drawn maps, transforming surveys and field notes into designs of exacting detail and beauty. They knew they weren't just mapping Texas, they were making history. Now you can bring home a piece of this history when you purchase a collectible map. Printed on heavy bond with UV-resistant inks. Display one in your home or office.

# THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY CDS

\$10 EACH \$35 4-DISC SET





# MAP CALENDARS

\$5 EACH

Let history repeat itself all year long with the Save Texas History Map Calendar. Features 12 full-color glossy maps from the Archives collection along with a different historical fact for each day of the year. 8.5" x 11".



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# NOTECARDS

\$5 PER SET

A unique set of 4" x 6" notecards featuring five of the most popular maps from the Archives collection. The cards are printed on glossy high-quality cardstock and are blank inside. Envelopes included.

ORDER BY PHONE: 512-463-5277 OR 800-998-4GLO ORDER ONLINE: SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG ★ ARCHIVES@GLO.TEXAS.GOV

# TAKE A TOUR

# VISITING AUSTIN? TOUR THE ARCHIVES!

The Texas General Land Office Archives invites you to take a complimentary tour! View original documents that were once held by Texas heroes like Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, William B. Travis, Jim Bowie and many more. There are no glass enclosures here—experience Texas history, up close and personal.

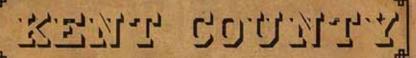
## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ An in-depth look at historical documents about Texas heroes
- ★ Historic county, Republic and state maps, many drawn by hand
- ★ Letters and documents of Texas Revolution veterans—generals and privates alike
- ★ The Spanish Collection, featuring thousands of documents that date between 1720 and 1836.
- ★ Confederate documents and letters
- ★ German immigration documents
- ★ Tales of the Texas Navy
- ★ Information on Texas railroads and internal improvements like the State Capitol
- ★ State-of-the-art archival vault
- ★ Over 3.5 million documents and 80,000 maps
- ★ The high-tech digital scanning process that has allowed the Land Office to be at the forefront of online accessibility



Tours are available upon request at no charge. Please schedule in advance and inform the staff about any particular interest for a unique experience.

800-998-4GLO OR 512-463-5277 TO SCHEDULE A COMPLIMENTARY TOUR 7:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M., MONDAY TO FRIDAY



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TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE COMMISSIONER JERRY PATTERSON 1700 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-1495

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR 800.998.4GL0 ★ 512.463.5277

RESEARCH ROOM HOURS
7:30 AM TO 5:30 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY
TDD 512·463·5330
WWW.GLO.TEXAS.GOV



Scan code with QR reader on your smartphone.

SAVE TEXAS \* TAXAS \* T